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'What Is And Isn't?'

Your editorial, "Senator Young and the CIA" (October 30), expressed well, I think, the opinion of most Cincinnatians regarding Senator Young's statements upon his return from his recent trip to Vietnam. Making public a word-of-mouth report on such serious charges against the U. S. Central Intelligence Agency as a whole shows little regard for the innocent people connected with the agency who will be harmed by such a story.

Where intelligence divisions are concerned, however, I was also told not too many months ago, by those then engaged in it locally, that one or two people in authoritative positions can abuse the privileges of their position in order to discredit or undermine the character and ability of those in their departments with whom they have taken issue. They are in a position to practice flagrant invasion of privacy under a cloak of anonymity, using the highly technical instruments and safeguards against detection provided them as law enforcement people; my own experience agreed with these reports.

Nevertheless, to cast aspersions on a department as a whole because of unethical conduct practiced by one or two people who happen to be in authoritative positions does a great disservice to the innocent majority under them, who are probably not involved. Perhaps your editorial will cause us to take a closer and harder look at the internal workings of our Federal agencies to decipher what is really intelligence and what is not.

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